Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division Akron-Summit County Public Library

Volume 15 Number 3 Autumn 2016

Edward Verbosky with his wife Olga. Photo courtesy of Mr. Verbosky's son, Gary Edward Verbosky.

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Honoring Our Veterans and a Reflection on the Work of Librarians

by Judy James, Division Manager

When we open our daily email or answer the reference desk phone, we never know what we will be asked or how our efforts might impact someone's life, even in another part of the world. I have learned over the years that the smallest requests sometimes mean the most. In September 2010, I picked up the phone at our reference desk and spoke to a gentleman who needed an obituary for his father. I found the obituary, emailed it to him, and recorded that reference statistic. Just another routine request on a routine day. The next morning, I opened my email to find his message of thanks. Attached to my bulletin board ever since, it is a reminder of how even a seemingly small piece of information can mean so much. Following is an excerpt:

You probably didn't notice an appreciable difference in what you did in response to my call, and what you would have done on any given day. But from where I sit, the world is a nicer place, because someone I didn't know, and who didn't owe me anything, extended extra effort in order to help me. For whatever it's worth, you were very special today in ways that you aren't really aware of, and that you won't be paid extra for. And because of that, a guy you'll probably never meet down here in Virginia will pray that you are blessed in ways that I won't be aware of either. And the next time it is my turn to respond to someone's request, I'll remember this simple little exchange.

His message of gratitude caught me completely off guard. I didn't do anything out of the ordinary in the realm of what we do every day, and as I recall, was a bit hurried when I spoke with him. But it was a profound reminder for me of the importance of our work.

Last week I received an email from a researcher I assisted in 2014. John Meurs, a Dutchman living in Switzerland, contacted us in March that year seeking information about a World War II veteran from Akron. An author and historian, Mr. Meurs recently published *One Way Ticket to Berlin: A Day in the Life of the Mighty Eighth.* This book chronicles the April 29, 1944 mission of the United States Air Force, and in particular, the story of a B-17 bomber that made a successful belly landing in the Netherlands. The entire crew survived and was hidden by the Dutch Underground. The ball-turret gunner, Bob Zercher, and a British airman took refuge in the home of a boy, Joop Bitter, and his mother. In September, the house was raided by the Germans. Joop escaped, but his mother and the two

airmen were arrested. His mother was sent to a concentration camp for women, where she died. The airmen, along with six members of the Dutch underground, were executed. Their bodies were dropped at various places in the village of Apeldoorn with a cardboard sign reading "terrorist." Years later, Joop would become the brother-in-law of John Meurs, hence his interest in this mission. Mr. Meurs' research and book extends to include the entire mission and events of that day, as well as the stories of other men who survived or lost their lives. When he contacted us, he was seeking living relatives of Edward Verbosky, a young bombardier on the same bomber as Bob Zercher.

When Mr. Meurs contacted us in 2014, he was hoping that we could find living relatives who might be able to complete Mr. Verbosky's post-war story. It didn't take much research to learn that Mr. Verbosky died in 1978 and was survived by three children, Linda, Gary, and Judy. Some additional sleuthing revealed that they were still alive and nearby. However, I found only one phone number. I left a message and did my best to explain the reason for my call, but alas, no response. Undeterred, I wrote letters to each of his children and included the email I received from Mr. Meurs, which explained the reason for his request. I had all but forgotten until a month later when I received a heartfelt email from Mr. Verbosky's daughter. She had indeed received my letter and had been in contact with Mr. Meurs. She filled in the personal details about her father, who "was a hero to me my whole life." According to his daughter, her father stayed behind with fellow crew member, Sergeant Watts, who was injured. They were captured by the Germans and taken as prisoners of war. Mr. Verbosky was taken to Stalag Luft III West Camp in Sagan, Germany, where he spent one full year as a prisoner. He was honorably discharged from the service on October 18, 1945. In addition, she shared that Edward had four brothers who also served in World War II, two of whom served at the same time as Edward. A younger brother, not yet born, would also serve with the United States Marines. All six boys returned safely. After the war, Mr. Verbosky married his wife Olga, settled in Akron and served for more than 30 years as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Meurs shared his research with Mr. Verbosky's daughter regarding the mission and other crew members who served with her father. And now, two years later, his book has been published. It is a wonderful tribute to those brave men, including Akron's Edward Verbosky, whose story might not have been told save for the author reaching out to the Akron-Summit County Public Library. Mr. Meurs informed us that a memorial was created in his hometown of Apeldoorn in the Netherlands to remember the two airmen and members of the Dutch underground who were executed, and that it had been adopted by a local primary school who, along with the village mayor, visit it each year. According to Mr. Meurs, there are several similar war memorials nearby, all of which are cared for by local schools.

This is not the first time we have been asked to locate living relatives of soldiers. On occasion, we are contacted by researchers who work for the United States government to locate relatives of military personnel whose remains have recently been discovered. It is also not the first time we have been contacted by someone in Europe whose research includes someone who served or was lost during World War II.

In October 2011, the City of Akron's Mayor's office forwarded an email to us from a resident of Garvestone, a small village in Norfolk, England who was seeking surviving relatives of William Laslo, a World War II soldier from Akron. He was killed in action along with eleven other men on June 4, 1944 when the B-24 he was in crashed near their town. The writer explained that she represented a committee that was working to build a memorial to these men and hoped to invite living descendants to attend a ceremony the following year. She further explained that they were not seeking any funding, as their community of 600 had already raised the necessary funds. She shared that "many of the older population of the villages have particularly fond memories of the U.S. personnel that were stationed here during the war, the kindness of many of the crew giving local children Christmas parties, and, of course, the chocolate and chewing gum so welcome during strict rationing. We are doing this because we feel that we do not want the lives of these twelve young men to go unnoticed any longer and want to place a memorial to them at the heart of our small community." She also shared that her own father spent time in a German prisoner-of-war camp, later to be liberated by U.S. troops. Weighing 90 pounds at the time he was freed, he credited U.S. personnel for saving his life.

I found Mr. Laslo's obituary and emailed it to her that day. She was especially appreciative because it provided his birth date, information they hoped to include on the stone. The *Akron Beacon Journal* published related articles, including one about the heartbreak of his father who had been severely wounded in World War I, and a March 1945 article when he accepted the Purple Heart and Air Medal posthumously awarded to his son. Finding living relatives was not so successful, however. He died young and unmarried, so no wife or children succeeded him. He had one sister, but I was unable to locate her or determine if she is still living. I did locate a man I believe is his great-nephew; however, my attempts to contact him went unanswered. So although my research did not result in connecting with any of his relatives, it was still gratifying to have made that connection on behalf of Akron and Mr. Laslo and to know that our effort has helped this small village in England remember and honor him.

As I wind down the last few months prior to my retirement, I have reflected on these stories, along with so many others. Although I have always considered librarianship to be a profession of helping, and indeed it is, the rewards for me have been immeasurable. I will always keep that email from the gentleman in Virginia, along with the memories I have preserved from stories such as these as a reminder of the grace and goodness and importance of our work, even just the small things.

The Akron Brewing Company building just before its demolition. Photo courtesy of Mary Plazo.

The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of Akron Breweries

by Mary Plazo, Librarian

Researching the history of industry in Akron includes learning about the origins of its entrepreneurs, the areas they settled, and their cultural heritage. One such group of entrepreneurs were the German immigrant brewers. The innovations they brought with them would change the brewing industry for years to come.

The first documented brewery in Akron appears in 1845 near Aetna Mill and Lock 11 of the Ohio and Erie Canal. It was operated by John T. Good, a native of Alsace-Lorraine. Several of the earliest breweries in Akron were established near the Little Cuyahoga River and along the cascade locks of the canal where there was a water supply. These were often small hodge-podge buildings prone to fire and other disasters before the advanced technology of the late nineteenth century and mechanical refrigeration improved production methods. There's no trace left of these breweries today.

One of Ohio's long-lived breweries was the Renner Brewery located on Forge Street. At the time the area was known as "Brewer's Hill," ideal for brewing with a ravine and a spring of pure water. Several native Germans operated breweries there from as early as 1845. After a fire ravaged a plant owned by brewer Fred Horix, a new plant was constructed in 1888 and sold to George Renner. Renner was from a village in Bavaria and came to the U.S. in 1849. He invested heavily in his plant in Akron, and the Renner Brewing Company was incorporated in 1893. Numerous additions followed over the years, including a bottle works, and annual capacity increased to 50,000 barrels. Each member of Renner's family was employed in the operation. By 1908, several brands were produced, from lager to pilsner to "table beer." Their most popular beer for the next 40 years would be "Grossvater," German for "Grandfather."

Probably the most recognized name in Akron's brewing industry is Burkhardt Brewing. There is no clear date for when the brewery began, but the plant's original address was along Sherman Street in the Wolf Ledges area in 1865. Wolf Creek was said to provide the purest water for brewing. The plant grew and expanded to Grant Street, further defining the area with the name "Goosetown" for its prominent German immigrants. The Burkhardt operation would survive fire and tornadoes, and eventually form a realty company to oversee the

nearly 100 saloons it opened throughout the city. With the establishment of so many breweries through the beginning of the twentieth century, stock companies were formed to prevent price gouging and profit loss. Akron followed suit when approximately 50 saloonkeepers pulled together and created the Akron Brewing Company in 1903. Construction began on a new modern building costing $150,000. The site of this complex at 841-869 South High Street is unfortunately another landmark in Akron's brewing history that has been recently demolished.

Breweries struggled through the years of Prohibition, attempting to adapt by creating non-alcoholic brands and soft drinks. Few came back to success after Prohibition's repeal in 1933. After World War II, the local brewing industry declined as national brewers with significant capital became too powerful for competition. Renner and Burkhardt both ceased operations by the early 1950s.

Progress Since 1880
...THE ORIGINAL
...THE ONLY
The original Burkhardt Brewery is only slightly larger than the ice tank above. This ice tank is the only one of its kind in the world, and it is a new idea in quality control which was originated at Burkhardt's. It is part of the complete top-to-bottom modernization program which has made Burkhardt's one of Ohio's fine beers. Try a bottle of Burkhardt's today!
Burkhardt's
..from the HEART of the hops
The Burkhardt Brewing Co., Akron, Ohio
70 Years of ONE FAMILY Leadership

The Burkhardt Brewing Co. ran this advertisement in the Akron Beacon Journal *on April 26, 1950.*

Since the late 1990s, there has been a renewed and very enthusiastic interest in offering specially crafted and unique beers to the public. We can find strong evidence of that in Akron today with the current variety of local breweries. We now have several local craft brewers to choose from, such as R. Shea Brewery in the Merriman Valley, Ohio Brewing in Highland Square, the Hoppin' Frog on Waterloo Road, and the Thirsty Dog Brewing Company located in the old historic brewery area on Grant Street. These are just a few of the establishments that are proudly bringing back Akron's beer-brewing heritage.

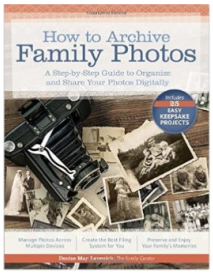
Naturalization and Confusion in Ohio, 1856

GET NATURALIZED!—Before another term of the Court of Common Pleas shall occur, our State Courts will probably be deprived of the power of naturalizing aliens, by the present legislature restricting that power to the Federal Courts—thus compelling all foreigners to go to Cleveland or Cincinnati, to procure the necessary papers. Now is the time before the present term of Common Pleas closes.—*Summit Democracy.*

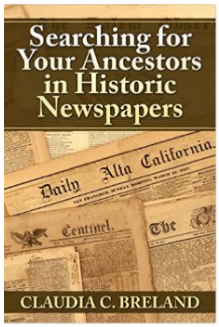
The paragraph above, embodies one of that class of falsehoods which is so industriously circulated by a reckless press, and which never receive a correction at the hands of those who fabricate them. There is no probability whatever that any such law will pass the Legislature. The only foundation for the statement is the fact that such a bill has been introduced.

Summit County Beacon*, April 9, 1856.*

New Books

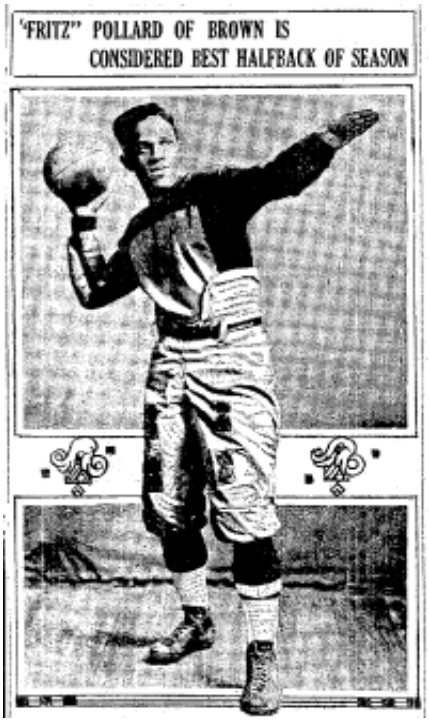


Denise May Levenick writes a regular column, "Family Archivist," for *Family Tree* magazine. In *How to Archive Family Photos*, she discusses practical techniques for preserving the priceless photos that document a family's history.



Newspaper research takes a great deal of time and patience, but it can be immensely rewarding to find that snippet of information that brings an ancestor to life or breaks a brick wall. Claudia C. Breland offers search tips and a helpful directory of digitized newspapers and indexes.

Wondering if we've ordered a title on a county you're researching? For a list of recent resources added to our collection in the past few months, be sure to check out New Books on our website.



Fritz Pollard was honored throughout the United States and Canada. Here he appears in the Manitoba Free Press *on November 28, 1916.*

Getting to Know...Fritz Pollard

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

The son of John William and Catharine Amanda Pollard, Frederick Douglass "Fritz" Pollard, Sr. was born in Chicago on January 27, 1894. He attended Albert Grannis Lane Manual Training High School, where he played football and baseball and was a three-time Cook County track champion. Pollard briefly attended and played football for Northwestern, Harvard, and Dartmouth before receiving a scholarship from the Rockefeller family to attend Brown University in 1915. At Brown, he studied chemistry and became the school's first African American football player, the first African American running back to be named to the Walter Camp All-America team, and the first African American to play in the Rose Bowl when Brown played in the 1916 game. That same year, Pollard was named an All-American halfback.

After leaving Brown, Pollard briefly pursued a degree in dentistry before joining the military and serving as director of an Army YMCA. He coached football at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1919, even after he signed on to play football with the Akron Indians in November that year.

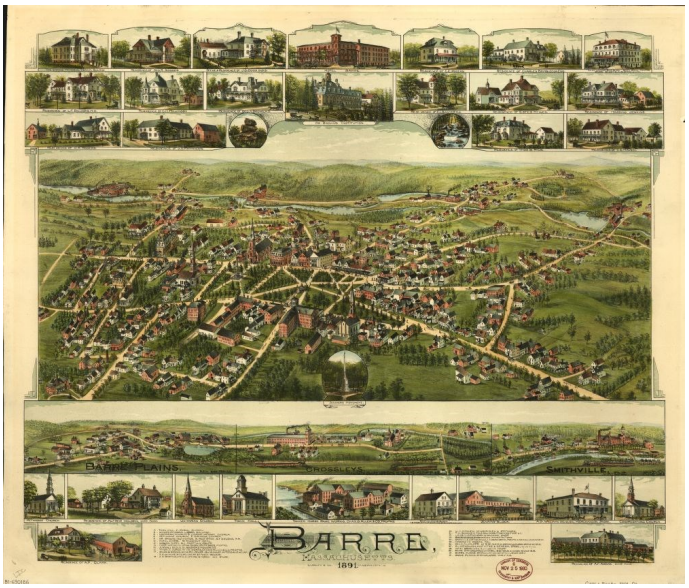
Akron's team had its start in 1908 and was renamed on multiple occasions. It became the Akron Burkhardts in 1916, when sponsored by that family of brewers, and was named the Akron Pros shortly after Pollard's arrival. The team was a charter member of the American Professional Football Association (APFA) league that became the National Football League (NFL) in 1922. Just as he had at Brown, Pollard continued to break barriers while in Akron. He and Bobby Marshall were the first two African American players in the league. After Pollard helped the Pros win the 1920 league championship, he went on to become the league's first African American coach the following year, adding the duties of co-coach to those of running back. He remained the only African American to coach in the NFL until the 1990s.

Pollard was nationally renowned as the "flashy little halfback" (he was just 5'9'' and weighed 165 pounds), but a 1920 *Akron Beacon Journal* article reported that he remained "as modest as a college freshman" and avoided the spotlight whenever possible. He was respected by his teammates as well, several of whom were quick to remedy the situation when one Akron waiter refused to serve him.

After leaving Akron's team, Pollard continued to play and coach in the league for several years, becoming the first black quarterback in NFL history when he played for the Hammond Pros. After he and all nine of the black players in the NFL were removed from the league at the end of the 1926 season, he stayed active in football, organizing African American barnstorming teams like the Chicago Black Hawks in 1928 and the Harlem Brown Bombers in the 1930s.

Even before the Depression ended the Brown Bombers' run in 1938, Pollard had other enterprises. He worked as a casting agent, studio manager and producer in the entertainment industry, as well as a tax consultant. He founded the F. D. Pollard and Co. investment firm in 1922 to serve the African American community. From 1935 to 1942, he published the first black-owned newspaper in New York City, the *New York Independent News*. In addition to these professional successes, Pollard had the personal satisfaction of watching his son, Fritz Pollard, Jr., win the bronze medal for the 110m hurdles in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin.

Pollard died of pneumonia on May 11, 1986 in Silver Spring, Maryland at the age of 92. He was posthumously inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2005 and into the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame in 2015. The Fritz Pollard Alliance, a group promoting the hiring of minorities throughout the NFL, seeks to carry on his legacy.



Barre, Massachusetts, *1891. From American Memory, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.*

Online Resources for Massachusetts

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

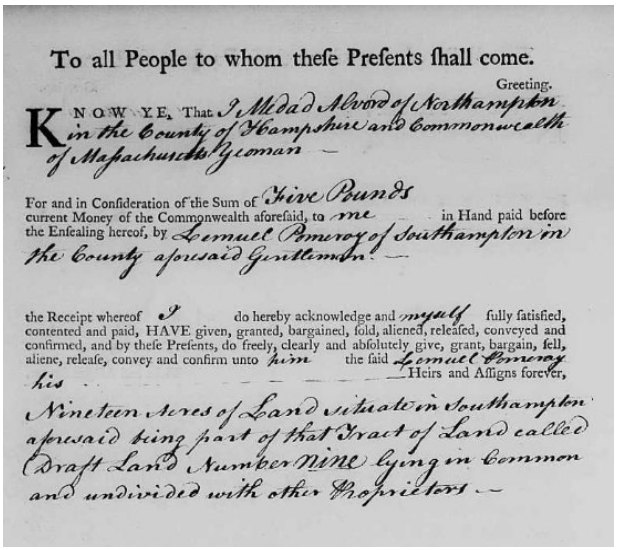
The pull of the Western Reserve enticed many Massachusetts residents to migrate to Ohio. Summit County's 1850 census reveals 765 residents whose birthplace was recorded as Massachusetts. If you're tracing Bay State ancestors who settled here or related families who remained there, many useful online resources are free at your fingertips.

Especially for earlier research (pre-1850), town records and land records are important sources. Many volumes of published transcribed town records can be viewed and downloaded on the Internet Archive – simply type "town records Massachusetts" or "vital records Massachusetts" combined with the name of the town of interest in the search box. Land grants, patents, deeds, and mortgages are included in the collection Massachusetts Land Records, 1620-1986 on FamilySearch. While it's not yet searchable, indexes are included and it's also possible to browse the records when the county and approximate time period is known.

Massachusetts' state repositories offer a myriad of digitized resources and helpful information. The State Library of Massachusetts' digital collections include statistical state census resources, Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, and Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War. Early name changes may appear in Acts and Resolves: Session Laws from 1692 to 2010. Massachusetts Archives' Researching Your Family's History offers excellent research guidance on the records in their custody, including divorce records, naturalizations, passenger lists, and records of state institutions. Digital Commonwealth: Massachusetts Collections Online is a collaborative effort of over 130 libraries, museums, and archives across the state, offering maps, photographs of Civil War veterans, yearbooks, and more. New collections are listed on the site's home page, organized by month of addition.

If *Mayflower* arrivals are in your family tree, explore the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the resources available through the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. Tables of contents for current issues of the *Mayflower Journal* are available to view or download from the General Society, while the Massachusetts Society offers several record sets including digital images of the Berkshire County probate index, 1761 to 1900.

American Ancestors remains a top clearinghouse of New England genealogy resources. Though full access is available at Main Library only, there are over a dozen Massachusetts databases freely accessible anywhere, including Easton, MA: Marriages, 1720–1802 and Burials in Gloucester Cemeteries. Don't overlook resources in local libraries around the state, such as Boston Public Library's Obituary Database and Thomas Crane Public Library's Quincy History Online Collections. A little time and some Yankee ingenuity will open up a world of Massachusetts research possibilities!



To all People to whom these Presents shall come.

Greeting.

KNOW YE, That I Medad Alvord of Northampton in the County of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Yeoman —

For and in Consideration of the Sum of Five Pounds current Money of the Commonwealth aforesaid, to me in Hand paid before the Ensealing hereof, by Lemuel Pomeroy of Southampton in the County aforesaid Gentleman —

the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and myself fully satisfied, contented and paid, HAVE given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these Presents, do freely, clearly and absolutely give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, convey and confirm unto him the said Lemuel Pomeroy his Heirs and Assigns forever,

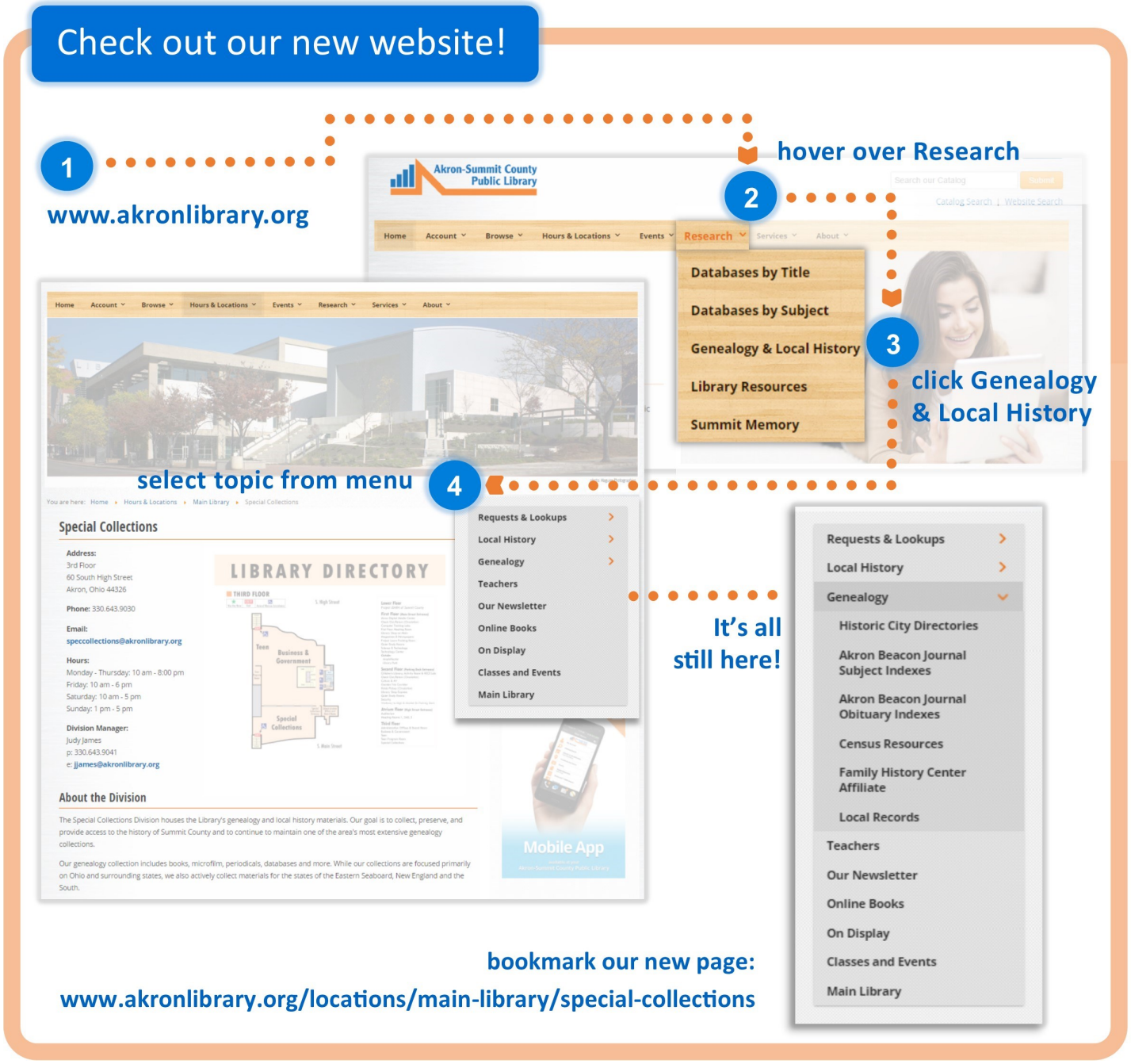
Nineteen Acres of Land situate in Southampton aforesaid being part of that Tract of Land called Draft Land Number Nine lying in Common and undivided with other Proprietors —

Deed from Medad Alvord to Lemuel Pomeroy, Southampton, Hampshire County, 1787. From Massachusetts Land Records, 1620-1986, *FamilySearch.*

Louise Sumner Board Collection

by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian

Early in 2016, Special Collections received the collections of the Louise Sumner Board. The Louise Sumner Board formed in 1911 to establish Akron's first known home for the aged. Named for Louise Sumner, an Akronite from a prominent family who designated her estate to establish the Sumner Home for the Aged, the Board carried out Sumner's wishes to provide care options for seniors when many had to rely on family or finish out their years in a poorhouse. The home would relocate several times in its history before becoming Sumner on Ridgewood, lately sold and renamed Concordia at Sumner. The Louise Sumner Board Collection covers more than 90 years of the organization's history and dates to the founding of the Board. Included in the collection are administrative records, photographs, clippings and other materials. Of particular interest are rosters and ledger books listing residents of the home. View the finding aid for more information.



Women making candy at the Shaw Jewish Community Center in Akron, 1982. Photo from Summit Memory.

Getting Creative with Family Recipes

by Judy James, Division Manager

How many of us have handwritten and ingredient-stained recipes on cards and paper – those treasured family recipes that have become part of the fabric of our family's culture and traditions? Is organizing and preserving them on your to-do list? If so, be sure to visit Special Collections table at this year's Mini Maker Faire to be held at Main Library on Saturday, November 12 from noon until 4 pm.

Special Collections will participate in this year's Mini Maker Faire with a table devoted to family recipes. Stop by to learn about how to preserve and share your family's favorite family recipes. We will also be collecting family recipes for our new Family Recipe Collection, our project to create a collection that reflects the rich and diverse food heritage that has shaped our community's culinary history. If you aren't able to join us at the Mini Maker Faire but have recipes to share, you may send them to us via mail or email. Typed or handwritten recipes will be accepted. Along with your recipes, please be sure to tell us something about them and the individuals connected to them. Why is the recipe important to you and your family? Was it made for special occasions or simply a family favorite? Is it connected to your ethnic heritage? We are also interested in recipes from local restaurants, so if you or your family operated a local eatery, we will happily accept those, too. Recipes and their stories may be mailed to Special Collections, ASCPL, 60 South High St., Akron, Ohio 44326 or emailed to speccollections@akronlibrary.org. Questions? Email us or call us at 330-643-9030.

What is a Mini Maker Faire? Established in the Bay area of California in 2006, Maker Faires are free, family-friendly events designed to showcase the work and creativity of folks who like to make and invent. Dozens of "makers" will be here to demonstrate their projects, everything from tiny circuits to fabric crafts and more. Presented by our Science and Technology Division, our Mini Maker Faire is just one of hundreds taking place around the world, even in Kathmandu! For more information, visit and like the Akron Mini Maker Faire Facebook page.

Dr. John Philip Colletta spoke to an appreciative crowd at our day-long event "Our Ancestors from Europe" on Saturday, August 27. About 125 guests attended lectures covering colonial to mid-twentieth century passenger arrival records and naturalization records, using the records of Italy, and discovering the real stories of immigrant ancestors. We would like to thank all who attended, and we are grateful to the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, event co-sponsor, for its help and support in making this event a great success.

Save the Date: April 1

Our next day-long program, "Church and State: Genealogy Research in Religious and Government Records" is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017. Cleveland-area genealogists Sunny McClellan Morton and Chris Staats will present two lectures each on these often elusive but very important records. Program details are in progress. Watch for more information in the next issue of *Past Pursuits*.

FamilySearch offers free digital images of court records from several counties around Ohio, including Washington County.

Fall Program Reminders

To register for any of the programs on October 1 or October 8, contact us at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org. No registration is required for Late Night at the Library on October 21.

Archives Programs - Saturday, October 1
10:30-12:00 pm: "Know Your Archives: What Summit County's Archives Can Do for You and What You Can Do for Archives"
Panelists from Special Collections, the Summit County Historical Society of Akron, Ohio, and both the University of Akron's Archival Services and Cummings Center for the History of Psychology (CCHP) will share details on their collections and how to access them as well as how you can help archives achieve their missions.

12:45-1:45 pm: "Discover the Heritage of Summit County with Summit Memory"
Special Collections Librarian Rebecca Larson-Troyer will demonstrate how you can use this countywide, collaborative online scrapbook administered by the Library in your research and how organizations can become project partners.

2:00-3:00 pm: "Preservation and Organization of Documents, Photographs, and Other Archival Materials"
Rhonda Rinehart, Manager of Special Collections at CCHP, will discuss the dos and don'ts of handling and storing materials you come across in your genealogy or local history research and where to turn for help.

Adoption & DNA Programs - Saturday, October 8
1-2:45 pm: "Adoptee Access to Records – Ohio's New Law"
Betsie Norris, founder and Executive Director of Adoption Network Cleveland, will speak about the recent law change allowing 400,000 adoptees adopted in Ohio's formerly "closed" period of 1964-1996 to have access to their original birth certificates and how this change has affected searches.

3-4:45 pm: "Solving for Unknown Parentage – DNA Basics"
Independent Genetic Genealogist Amanda Reno will illustrate how you can use DNA testing in your search for birth family and other relatives.

Late Night at the Library - Friday, October 21
6:30-10:30 pm
Once again, Special Collections and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society are teaming up for our annual after-hours genealogy event when Main Library reopens for genealogists. Light refreshments and door prizes will be provided, and parking is free for those entering the parking deck after 6 pm. No registration is required for this event.

Summit County OGS Events

For more information, see http://summitogs.org.

Serendipity in Genealogy
(Chapter Meeting)
Presented by Margaret Cheney
Saturday, October 15
1:30-3:30 pm
Main Library

Colonel Simon Perkins and his family sitting on the porch of their home. From the Summit County Historical Society Collection, Summit Memory.

"A Visit to the Mansion" Discovery Trunk

by Claire Lucas, Education Coordinator, Summit County Historical Society

Special Collections is pleased to host another Discovery Trunk courtesy of the Summit County Historical Society. Currently on display is a trunk containing items that would have been used or popular during the time that the Perkins family lived in their stone mansion. The display is "hands on" and visitors are encouraged to pick up and touch each item.

General Simon Perkins' newly formed town of Akron grew quickly. By the end of 1825, his oldest son, Colonel Simon Perkins, was sent to Akron to supervise his father's extensive land transactions. By 1837, he had moved into the stone mansion with his family. Perkins began farming and invested in a flock of Saxony and Merino sheep, hiring John Brown (later known as the famed abolitionist) to tend to his flock. Brown was an expert shepherd and wool grader. At one point, Perkins had 1,300 sheep grazing on his property, earning it the nickname "Mutton Hill." The "Visit to the Mansion" discovery trunk highlights what life would have been like when the Perkins family lived in the stone mansion. Contents of the trunk include raw wool samples, refined wool products, tongue plane, railroad lamp, cherry stoner, apple peeler, mortar and pestle, oil lamp, and a music box disc. This trunk will be on display in Special Collections throughout the fall. Visit us to learn about more about the Perkins family through the everyday items that surrounded them.

In the spirit of the Perkins and Brown wool partnership, the Summit County Historical Society currently has a working flock of Dorset sheep grazing on the front lawn of the Perkins Stone Mansion through September. The Society's Mutton Hill Quilt Show is October 22-23 at the John S. Knight Center. For more information about the Society's discovery trunks, sheep and quilt show, please visit www.summithistory.org and www.muttonhillquilts.org.

Special Collections Main Library Class Schedule

The Special Collections Division offers several recurring genealogy classes to help you with your family research. All classes are free of charge and open to the general public. **Registration is required for all classes held at Main Library. Please register by calling us at 330-643-9030 or emailing us at speccollections@akronlibrary.org.**

Getting Started in Family History
Join us for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. This class includes an overview of genealogical sources available at the Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research.
Saturday, October 8, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB

My Heritage - World Vital Records Discover the variety of indexes and digitized records from the U.S. and overseas available in this database.
Saturday, November 5, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

FindMyPast offers a wide variety of genealogical records, but it's especially strong in British and Irish records. Join us to learn more about how to use this resource.
Saturday, December 3, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Ann F. Baughman for historical materials pertaining to the Akron Transportation Company and the Akron Regional Transit Authority.

Bill Beck for photograph of the Semonin Family, circa 1928.

Sarah Church for *Good Grief: Finding Gifts in the Grief of Losing a Child* by Sarah Church, and *The Dog Who Couldn't Bark* by Sarah Church.

Clyde Coughenour, Jr. for *My Somerset County Heritage* by Clyde Irvin Coughenour.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for *History of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1979-2015* in memory of Marilyn Dickinson Hofstetter and Nancy Montgomery Fuss.

David Hudson Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for *New York in the American Revolution* by Eric Grundset.

Bob Downing for rolodex of former *Akron Beacon Journal* journalist Pat Englehart.

Johnnie Downs for Vietnam Veterans Memorial annual induction program and framed memorial certificate from Founders of the Wall featuring Akron resident Herman Downs.

Richard L. Garinger for historic photo of Central High School.

Mrs. Betty Godard for *Proprietors' Records of Cambridge Massachusetts* by Edward J. Brandon and *Vital Records of Yarmouth Massachusetts to the Year 1850* by Robert M. Sherman.

Kay Johnson for Barberton High School yearbooks.

Mark J. Price for 6 scrapbooks of Goodyear Jr. High School PTA, advertisement for H. B. Horton Melo-Peans, and advertisement for Mushroom Traffic Light.

Ohio Society United States Daughters of 1812, Portage Trail-Commodore Perry Chapter for *Annals of the Town of Concord* in memory of Barbara Williams.

Peter Vogt for *Historic Collections of Ohio* by Henry Howe, digital images of Tallmadge, Ohio Civil War veterans circa 1908, and birthday book of Minnie Louise Sperry.

The Coming of Autumn
also means the arrival of new and fresh Food Products, comprising essentials and luxuries in grocery supplies. At no other store can you find such an abundance of the best as at this store.
COPYRIGHT
SATURDAY SPECIALS
Spanish Onions, per pound 8c
Pat-a-Cake 25c
Best Flour for cake baking, all you need is water to mix it
Aunt Jemima Pancake Flour 15c
Virginia Sweet Potatoes, pk 50c
Jersey Sweets, per pound.....25c
Overholt's Grocery
I. O. O. F. Temple
Portage street

Specials at Overholt's Grocery reveal "new and fresh" fall foods. There's nothing pumpkin-flavored here.
Cuyahoga Falls Reporter, *September 26, 1919.*

The Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division
is located on the third floor
of the Main Library.

Special Collections
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High St.
Akron, Ohio 44326

330-643-9030

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speccollections@akronlibrary.org

website:
www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections

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